

## Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOL REPEAT PARIS 36101 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 7 DEC.

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 36101

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FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: THE SECRETARY'S BILATERAL MEETINGS IN  
EUROPE

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REF: STATE 296787

1. G-5 MEETING MONDAY COVERED GENERAL REVIEW OF LAST SESSION IN MORNING, OPENING DISCUSSION COMMITTEE I PROBLEM IN AFTERNOON, AND SIMULTANEOUS COMMENCEMENT EXPERT DISCUSSIONS ON COMMITTEES II AND III. HEADS OF DEL CONSIDERED STRAITS THIS MORNING.

A) GENERAL REVIEW. GENERAL ATTITUDE REGARDING LAST SESSION OF CONFERENCE WAS ONE OF DISAPPOINTMENT, WITH LITTLE OPTIMISM EXPRESSED REGARDING NEXT SESSION. BOTH FRENCH AND SOVIETS EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF DEMONSTRATING TO OTHERS THAT THEY HAD MORE TO LOSE BY NO TREATY THAN WOULD THE MARITIME POWERS. ALL FIVE DELEGATIONS STRONGLY EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF UNITY AMONG THE FIVE. FRENCH AND SOVIETS PARTICULARLY APPREHENSIVE REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF VOTING AT NEXT SESSION.

B) COMMITTEE I. ENTIRE GROUP AGREED ON NECESSITY OF GUARANTEED ACCESS, AND IF ANYTHING TENDING IN EVEN MORE CONSERVATIVE DIRECTION THAN AT LAST SESSION ON THIS QUESTION AS A TACTIC. FRENCH, SOVIETS AND UK HOSTILE TO HROPOSAL TO HELP FINANCE THE ENTERPRISE, ALTHOUGH UK OPPOSITION QUALIFIED BY WORDS "AT THIS TIME." AS AGREED IN WASHINGTON, WE DID NOT REPEAT NOT GO INTO DETAIL ON OUR PROPOSAL. ALL WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF FRENCH AND JAPANESE EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO NIGERIAN PROPOSAL, IN WHICH WE JOINED PER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS. ONLY BRITISH EXPRESSED RESERVATION ON IDEA OF REVIEW AFTER ABOUT 25 YEARS. SOVIETS CONTINUE TO PUSH QUOTA ISSUE. WHILE FRENCH HAVE NOT ABANDONED THEIR POSITION IN THIS REGARD, THEY SEEM TO BE TAKING A MORE LOW KEY APPROACH FOR THE MOMENT, RECOGNIZING THE KEY QUESTION IS ACCESS.

C) STATUS OF ECONOMIC ZONE. ALL BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE FIRM COMMON POSITION. SOVIETS AND FRENCH INCLINED TO PUSH HARD FOR HIGH SEAS STATUS AS SUCH, WHILE BRITISH AND JAPANESE FEEL IT WOULD BE TACTICALLY WISER TO DEVOTE MAJOR ATTENTION TO SATISFACTORY ELABORATION OF RIGHTS OF THIRD STATES IN ECONOMIC ZONE, BUT PROBABLY WILL GO ALONG WITH HARDER LINE POSITION.

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2. INTERSESSIONAL PLANS. ALL FELT INTERSESSIONAL EVENSEN MEETING OF COMMITTEE I WOULD BE USEFUL IF THERE IS ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION FROM ALL CONCERNED. THERE ARE SIGNS SOVIETS MAY UNDERTAKE MAJOR LOBBYING EFFORTS IN CAPITALS DURING INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD. COMMON MARKET PLANNING "TECHNICAL" MEETINGS ON DEEP SEABEDS WITH ACP COUNTRIES.

3. MALACCA STRAITS. PRIVATE LUNCH WITH BRITISH AND JAPANESE ON MALACCA STRAITS QUESTION INDICATED GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT TECHNICAL DETAILS OF TRAFFIC REGULATION IN MALACCA STRAITS SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE INCLUDED IN LOS TREATY. HOWEVER, BRITISH FAVOR "COSMETIC" CHANGES IN STRAITS ARTICLES IN ORDER TO GAIN MALAYSIAN SUPPORT FOR THE ARTICLES AND AVOID MOVE FOR WIDE-OPEN RE-NEGOTIATION OF STRAITS ARTICLES AT NEXT SESSION, WHILE JAPANESE ARE VERY RELUCTANT TO SEE ANY CHANGES IN THE STRAITS ARTICLES AS DRAFTED. JAPANESE POINT OUT THAT THEY ARE UNDER PRESSURE DOMESTICALLY TO PROPOSE LIMITATIONS ON SHIPS CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND HAVE RESISTED THIS ON GROUNDS THAT STRAITS ARTICLES HAVE REACHED THE POINT WHERE THEY CANNOT BE CHANGED. ANY CHANGE PERCEIVED TO BE DIRECTED AT JAPANESE TANKERS WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR GOJ TO RESIST SUCH PRESSURE. AT HEADS OF DEL DISCUSSION THIS MORNING, SOVIETS FAVERED BRITISH APPROACH, AND JAPANESE MAY BE SLIGHTLY FLEXIBLE, BUT WE HAVE NOT GOTTEN INTO DETAILS YET. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BRITISH MAINTAIN HIGH DEGREE OF SENSITIVITY TO JAPANESE CONCERNS, WHILE WE PRIVATELY TRY TO PERSUADE JAPANESE OF MERITS OF SOME FLEXIBILITY. BRITISH APPARENTLY PLAN TO TALK TO MALAYSIA AND OTHER STRAITS STATES EARLY NEXT YEAR.

4. SUGGESTIONS REGARDING TALKING POINTS.

A) UK-FRANCE-FRG. WE BELIEVE THE SECRETARY SHOULD NOTE THAT WHILE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT MARITIME STATES GIVE IMPRESSION TO OTHERS THAT OTHERS HAVE MORE TO LOSE IF THERE IS NO TREATY, WE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT LOSE SIGHT OF IMPORTANCE OF TREATY TO OUR COLLECTIVE INTERESTS.

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THE SECRETARY SHOULD ALSO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THESE GOVERNMENTS THAT GUARANTEED ACCESS IS WORTH COST OF HELPING TO FINANCE STARTUP OPERATIONS OF THE ENTERPRISE. WE BELIEVE SECRETARY SHOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF HIGH SEAS STATUS OF ECONOMIC ZONE AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN ECONOMIC ZONE. THE SECRETARY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE INDIA-NETHERLANDS CO-CHAIRMEN OF LAST SESSION'S C I WORKING GROUP REMAIN ACTIVE, AND PRESENT POTENTIAL THREAT TO EFFECTIVENESS OF EVENSEN IN INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD. IN VIEW OF OUR GREAT DIFFICULTIES WITH JAGOTA (INDIA), SECRETARY MAY WISH TO ENCOURAGE THE UK-FRANCE-FRG TO TRY TO TURN OFF CO-CHAIRMEN OPERATION. UK AND FRANCE REPS HERE AGREE WITH US.

B) UK. THE SECRETARY SHOULD STRESS THE IMPORTANCE

OF CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH US AND JAPANESE ON MALACCA  
STRAITS QUESTION.

C) NORWAY. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT NORWEGIANS  
UNDERSTAND FIRMNESS OF OUR DETERMINATION ON GUARANTEED  
ACCESS ON DEEP SEABEDS AND STATUS OF ECONOMIC ZONE, AS  
EVENSEN MAY PLAY KEY ROLE ON BOTH ISSUES. TALKING POINTS  
SHOULD OF COURSE ALSO INCLUDE REFERENCE TO THE  
SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH EVENSEN, AS WELL AS AMBASSADOR  
LEARSON'S MEETING WITH EVENSEN NEXT SUNDAY AND MONDAY.

D) FRG. WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT RECEIVED REPORT RE-  
GARDING FRG PRESENTATION YESTERDAY IN NATO ON LOS. RUSH

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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